

DMU Safety Net Regulations

Amendments to the Academic regulations for taught programmes, 2020/21

Approved for use from 11 February 2021

A. Exceptions

1. It is noted that some of these regulations might not be appropriate for all programmes, such as those regulated by PSRBs. Where this is the case, students will be given clear information about which regulations will be used.

B. Extending assessment deadlines

2. Students may request an extension to an assessment deadline using the extension to coursework application form. The request should be made to the module leader in advance of the deadline. The module leader has the discretion to grant an extension of up to 14 calendar days.
3. There is no requirement to provide evidence when requesting extensions.
4. If a deadline extension is approved the module leader will confirm the revised deadline date.

C. Unauthorised late submission of assessments

5. If an assessment is submitted later than the deadline without an approved extension or deferral the mark received would normally be capped.
6. From the point of approval of this regulation, and for the 2020-21 academic year only, the penalty for late submission will not be applied for submissions up to five days late where IT, personal or academic issues associated with lockdown are cited as the reason. This should be agreed and recorded by the module leader. Where the nature of the assessment (eg phase test) means the deadline cannot be extended, students are advised to request a deferral.
7. This will not apply retrospectively to the point of approval.
8. In all other cases, the standard regulations and penalties apply (see Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes, 2020/21, para 27-31).

D. Reassessment of failure

9. Should a student fail a module, they may only be reassessed in the failed assessment components. Students may not be reassessed in assessment components or modules which have already been passed. Where a student has been reassessed in one or more assessment tasks within a module, the mark for the overall module would normally be capped at the pass mark (regulation 39).
10. For the 2020/21 academic year only, students who fail a module and require reassessment in the failed assessment component will not be subject to the overall module mark being capped when the reassessment is completed. This will be for the first reassessment attempt only, and only for modules studied, or where marks are presented against a module for the first time in 2020/21. The volume of reassessment opportunities available remains as per the academic regulations.

11. If a student fails as a result of non-submission, the standard regulations will apply and the reassessment will be capped at the pass mark. Therefore students must attempt the component in order for this emergency regulation to be applied.
12. Students who entered 2020/21 with a failed assessment from previous academic sessions will not have this emergency regulation applied to those reassessments.

E. Degree classification

Bachelors awards

Current level 5 students

13. Students studying at level 5 in 2020/21 will have 30 credits discounted rather than 15. This will mean that the final award, whenever made, will be calculated on the best 90 credits at level 5 and best 105 credits at level 6. This applies only to students undertaking level 5 for the first time in 2020/21 and not to those undertaking level 5 reassessments in the current year.

Current level 6 final year students

14. In 2020/21 only, final year students studying at level 6 will receive the best classification from two calculations, one weighting level 6 at 2:1 and one at the normal weighting of 3:1. Direct entrants to level 6 will have their classification based solely on their level 6 achievements as normal.

Integrated Masters awards

Current level 5 and level 6 students

15. Students studying at level 5 or level 6 in 20/21 will have an additional 15 credits discounted. This means that the final award, whenever made, will be calculated on the best 210 credits at level 5 and level 6. This applies only to students undertaking level 5 or level 6 for the first time in 2020/21 and not to those undertaking reassessments in the current year.
16. Should current level 5 or level 6 students leave with a BA/BSc rather than the intended Masters award, the regulations will be applied as for Bachelors awards (see above).

Current level 7 final year students

17. In 2020/21 only, final year students studying at level 7 will receive the best classification from two calculations, one weighting level 7 at 2:1 and one at the normal weighting of 3:1.

Proposed amendment to the General regulations and procedures affecting students, 2020/21

F. Deferral of assessments on grounds of extenuating circumstances

18. Deferrals will be considered for students who have notified the university and submitted a deferral request to their Faculty Student Advice Centre. Students requesting deferrals for this assessment period will not be required to provide third party evidence. We strongly recommend that all students consult their Student Advice Centre to discuss their circumstances before submitting a deferral request.
19. All students granted deferrals will be expected to take their assessments at the next available opportunity. Should this not be possible for Covid-related reasons, a further deferral should be sought.